

Weekly Market Bulletin

State of New Hampshire
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Governor

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Commissioner

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From Your Commissioner...

Fledgling N.H. Wine Industry Adds a New Player

Virginia Carter intends for her new winery to succeed with a vineyard at 1,460 feet of elevation tended under organic production methods.

She's a former export marketer and advertising executive who has launched Barnett Hill Vineyard high atop a hill in the eastern reaches of Walpole. Her venture will test the conventional wisdom about producing wine grapes in New Hampshire by being far from the mild climate of the Seacoast region.

Carter has been running trials on grape varieties, so far planting 27 different ones to see how they perform in her farm's environment. She's been working closely with Dr. Peter Oldak, proprietor of the acclaimed Jewell Towne Vineyard in South Hampton, and with UNH Cooperative Extension plant scientists to determine which strains will adapt to her soils and weather conditions.

Paperwork is pending with state and federal authorities for Barnett Hill Vineyard to become a bonded winery, and Carter hopes to have wines for commercial sale available in a year. She has spent more than four years researching the viticulture business, traveling as far off as Napa and Sonoma in California to study the game.

Her hopes are for yields of 15 pounds of grapes per vine when the approximately 1,500 vines she's planted reach maturity.

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Jesse Laflamme wants to hear from parties interested in growing pullets for his family's Pete & Jerry's Organic egg farm in Monroe. He thinks there may be former dairy barns that could be fitted out, or perhaps there are some people who would consider developing some new space to contract-raise birds.

Pete & Jerry's has been growing at a dizzying rate, with laying houses being expanded practically every year this decade, and a big new cooler facility nearing completion currently. The farm has certified-organic growers in Walpole and Sanbornton now under contract but needs more capacity to assure a steady stream of layers to produce its hot-selling fresh eggs.

For more info call Laflamme at 800-438-3447.

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Time for purebred dairy cattle folks to prepare entries for this summer's breed shows. The Holstein, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorn competitions will be held at Hopkinton State Fairgrounds Aug. 8, while the Jersey show is at Cheshire Fair Aug. 3, Ayrshires at Cornish Fair Aug. 18 and Guernseys during Hopkinton Fair Labor Day Weekend.

For 4-H dairy exhibitors the qualifying event is Aug. 7-8 in conjunction with the breed shows being held at

Hopkinton. Contact state breed association secretaries for entry materials and information on new biosecurity measures at shows and fairs.

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The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is worried about diminishing biodiversity in the world's livestock populations. One livestock breed a month has become extinct over the past seven years, and one-fifth of the planet's remaining breeds of cattle, goats, pigs, horses and poultry may soon disappear.

A study commissioned by the U.N. says "surging global demand for meat, milk and eggs has led to heavy reliance on high-output animals intensively bred to supply uniform products." The ease of movement of these genetics from country to country is accelerating this trend.

The widest possible portfolio of genetic resources is needed to assure resilience of the world's food supply, the report argues, and the threat posed by climate change adds to the urgency of preserving the widest possible array of livestock and poultry bloodlines.

Animals will be needed that can handle the stresses caused by changing weather patterns and the resultant effects on plants that feed these animals.

"While sometime less productive, many breeds at risk of extinction have unique characteristics, such as disease resistance or tolerance to climatic extremes, which future generations may need..." the report contends, citing the rising dominance of Holstein and Jersey dairy cattle, Leghorn laying hens, Saanen goats and Large White, Duroc and Landrace hogs for pushing other breeds toward oblivion since the mid-20th century.

Steve Taylor, Commissioner